Khurdha Road-Bolangir Rail Line

*267. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey of Khurdha Road-Bolangir rail line in Orissa has been completed; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to take up construction of that line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The final location survey has been completed in 102 km out of total 289 km. The land acquisition is in progress in Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh and Bolangir districts. The work for first 2.5 km Length fromKhurdha end has been started where the land is available with Railway. Work in the remaining stretch will be taken up once land becomes available.

Train Robberies

*268. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) how many train robberies have taken place during the last one year, month-wise;

(b) in which state the train robberies have been the highest during the same period;

(c) what is the position in Bihar in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken for curbing these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) The maintenance of law and order and the security of passengers and their belongings in the running trains and railway premises is the constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned. The cases of Crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police which functions under the control of the State Government concerned. However, as per the information available with the Ministry of Railways, 229 cases of train robbery were reported during the year 2000. Month-wise details are as under :—

Month	No. of cases reported
January	11
February	12
March	56
April	18
May	16
June	24
July	11
August	23
September	18
October	14
November	10
December	16
TOTAL :	229

(b) and (c) During the year 2000, Gujarat State registered the highest number of train robbery amongst all the States. Bihar State ranks fifth from the top.

(d) Though the responsibility to curb these incidents lies with the State Governments, the Railways also taken the following steps to supplement the efforts of the State Governments :—

1. Anti-social elements are removed from railway premises and trains by Railways officials;
2. The coaches and the compartments are properly locked during their run especially during night hours;
3. Announcement through Public Address system and CCTV at important Railway Stations is made to alert the travelling passengers against criminal activities;
4. Wherever the State Government wants to establish mobile post in the running trains, necessary facilities like accommodation etc. are provided;
5. FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards/TTEs/GRP escorts to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately ;

6. RPF Assistance posts are at important stations to assist passengers in lodging FIRs with the Government Railway Police;
7. Periodic co-ordination Meetings with the Police Authorities are held to analyse the crime position with a view to take suitable preventive measures; and
8. Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence are shared between RPF and the GRP at all levels.

Ahmedabad-Somnath narrow gauge Rail Line

†*269. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to convert narrow gauge rail lines into broad gauge in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this work is likely to start;

(c) whether Government are also considering to convert the Ahmedabad (Gujarat)—Somnath (Veraval) narrow gauge line into broad gauge; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) : No, Sir. However, the gauge conversion of some of the narrow gauge lines into broad gauge is already in progress, details of which are as under :

1. Miraj-Latur
2. Bankura-Damodar River Railway Line
3. Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi
4. Naupdada-Gunupur
5. Rupsa-Bangriposi
6. Ranchi-Lohardaga

(c) There is no narrow gauge line between Ahmedabad and Veraval. But there is a meter gauge connection between Ahmedabad and Veraval *via* Botad, Dhola, Jetalsar. There is no proposal to convert this meter gauge line into broad gauge. However, a part of this route *i.e.* from Boated-Dhasa via Dhola and Jetalsa to Verval are under conversion as a part of other sanctioned projects.

(d) No target date has been fixed due to constraint of resources.

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*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.